

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A pipe fusion machine for fusing sections of pipe to form a pipeline, comprising:
 - (a) a fusing mechanism; and
 - (b) a cleaning mechanism for cleaning debris from the external surface of the sections of pipe prior to fusion of the same.
2. The pipe fusion machine of Claim 1, wherein the cleaning mechanism comprises:
 - (a) a flexible wiper, and
 - (b) a retaining mechanism adapted to hold the said wiper.
3. The pipe fusion machine of Claim 2, wherein the retaining mechanism further comprises one or more plates.
4. The pipe fusion machine of Claim 3, wherein the retaining mechanism further comprises one or more spacers to separate the plates thereof, at least one of which spacers is removable to permit the removal of said wiper.
5. The pipe fusion machine of Claim 2, wherein the flexible wiper has an inside edge, the diameter of which is slightly less than the diameter of the sections of the pipe.
6. A pipe cleaner for use with a pipe fusion machine, comprising:
 - (a) a substantially planar, flexible wiper; and
 - (b) a retaining mechanism adapted to hold the said wiper.
7. The pipe fusion machine of Claim 6, wherein the retaining mechanism further comprises one or more plates.
8. The pipe fusion machine of Claim 7, wherein the retaining mechanism further comprises one or more spacers to separate the plates thereof, at least one of which spacers is removable to permit the removal of said wiper.
9. The pipe fusion machine of Claim 6, wherein the flexible wiper has an inside edge, the diameter of which is slightly less than the diameter of the sections of the pipe.
10. A pipe cleaner for use with a pipe fusion machine, comprising:
 - (a) a mounting frame; and
 - (b) a plurality of spring loaded wipers.
11. An improved method for fusing sections of pipe, whereby the improvement comprises cleaning the sections of pipe prior to the fusion of the same by means of a cleaning mechanism

comprised of:

(a) a flexible wiper; and

(b) a retaining mechanism adapted to hold said wiper.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the retaining mechanism of the cleaning mechanism comprises one or more plates and one or more spacers to separate the said plates, at least one of which spacers is removable to permit the removal of said wiper.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the flexible wiper has an inside edge, the diameter of which is slightly less than the diameter of the sections of the pipe.